Montana
2003-2004
Highway Map
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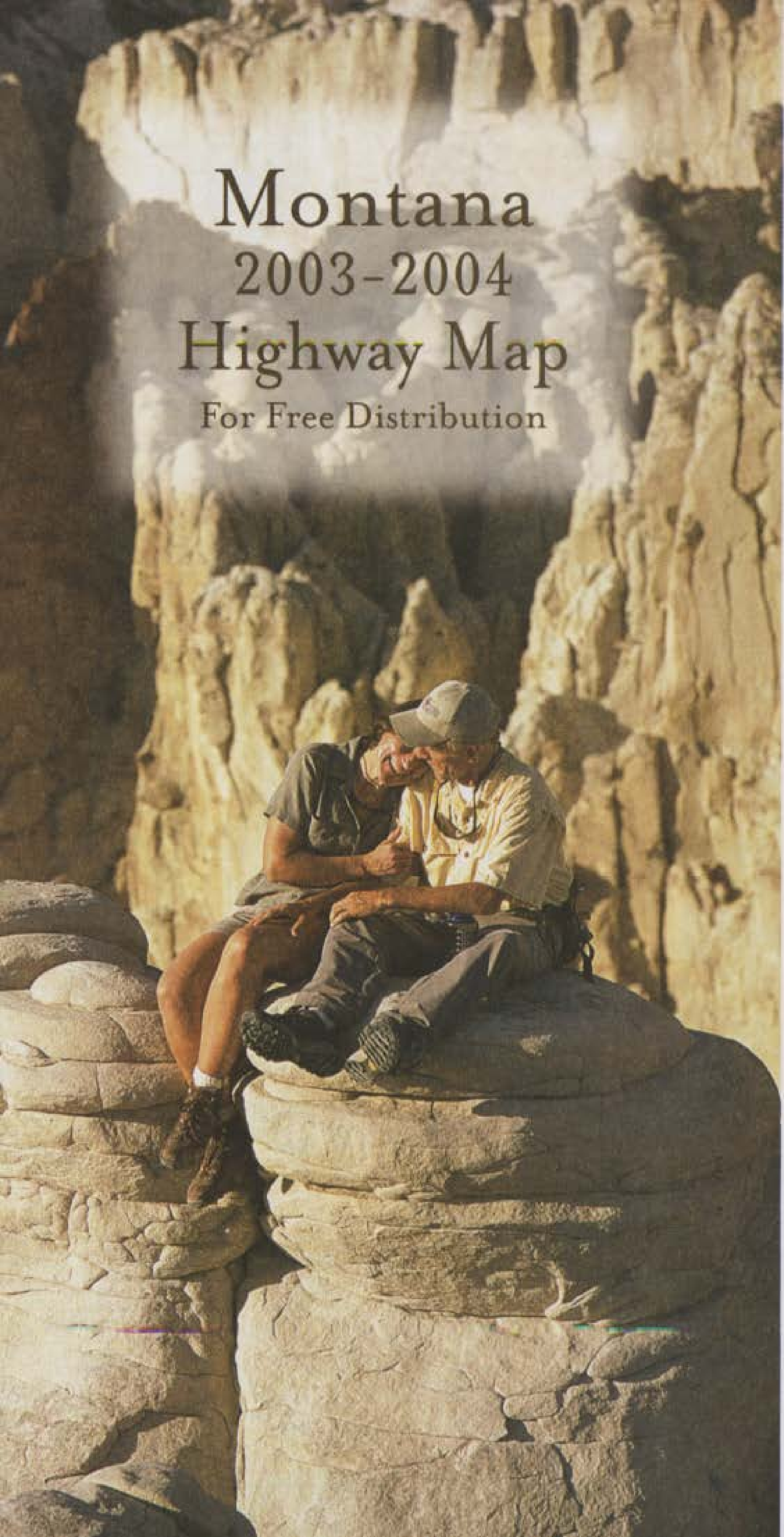


Montana Highway Map

Montana Vacation Regions

GLACIER COUNTRY

Flathead Lake (B, C-2). At nearly 200 square miles, Flathead is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi.

Glacier National Park (A, B-2, 3). Called "[illegible] America's Crown Jewel," this natural beauty, open year-round, has more than 700 miles of maintained trails, sparkling lakes, alpine glaciers and deep forests. The spectacular Going-to-the-Sun Road crosses the Continental Divide in Logan Pass.

Native American Tribes - Visit the Salish-Kootenai tribe on the Flathead Indian Reservation (C, D-2), and the Blackfeet tribe on the Blackfeet Reservation (A-3, 4).

National Bison Range (D-2). This national treasure protects one of the most important remaining herds of American bison. Visitor center and year-round self-guided auto tour.

Ross Creek Cedar Grove Scenic Area (B-1). Walk among cedars more than 500 years old and 250 feet tall on this handicapped accessible interpretive trail.

Missions - See the influence of the Catholic Church on Montana's history at St. Ignatius Mission (D-2), built against the backdrop of the Mission Mountains in 1854, and at St. Mary's Mission (E-2), the first Catholic mission in the Northwest, established in 1841 in Stevensville.

GOLD WEST COUNTRY

Fishing - Many of Montana's fabled blue-ribbon trout streams are here, including the Madison, Big Hole, Missouri, Beaverhead, and Jefferson.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park (F-5). Montana's first and best known park features the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest. Daily cave tours May to September.

Virginia City/Nevada City (G-4). Two preserved mining camps from the 1860s gold rush era. See the railroad museum and ride the steam train.

Big Hole National Battlefield (F-2). Site where the Nez Perce Indians were taken in a surprise attack by the U.S. Army; they were later forced onto a reservation.

Grant Kohrs Ranch (F-2). This National Historic Site in Deer Lodge, still operating as an 1850s ranch, was at one time the largest ranch in the U.S.

Old Montana Prison Complex (F-2). A Deer Lodge prison built by convict labor in 1871 and kept in operation until 1979.

Mining Cities. Butte (F-4), known as "the richest hill on earth," was built on copper; Helena (E-4), "Queen City of the West," is the state capital.

Ghost Towns. See Montana's past at Garnet (D-3), Bannack State Park (G-3), Elkhorn State Park (E-4), Granite (E-3) and Marysville (E-4).

RUSSELL COUNTRY

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center (C-5). Located midway along the Lewis and Clark Trail, the center focuses on relations between the Corps of Discovery and the many Indian tribes they encountered, and on the month-long portage around the five falls on the Missouri River near Great Falls.

Giant Springs Heritage State Park (C-5). One of the world's largest freshwater springs, noted by Lewis and Clark in 1805.

C.M. Russell Museum Complex (C-5). Famed Western artist Charlie Russell interpreted the landscapes and lifestyle of Northcentral Montana on canvas and in bronze sculpture. The museum has the world's largest collection of his works.

Bear Paw Battlefield (B-7). South of Chinook. This site marks the surrender of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce on Oct. 5, 1877, after a 1,170-mile retreat.

Dinosaur Digs (C-4). A discovery near Choteau changed the way paleontologists think about dinosaurs. Visit Choteau's Old Trail Museum to view the fossils.

Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (C 6, 7). A remote stretch flowing 149 miles downstream from Fort Benton. Lewis and Clark explored and camped on its banks.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

Yellowstone National Park (H, I-5, 6). The world's first national park is renowned for its spouting geysers, brilliant pools, bubbling cauldrons, mountains, meadows, waterfalls, canyons and wildlife. Wintertime brings ski and snowmobile touring.

Hiking - Two federally protected wilderness areas and several national forests offer excellent hiking, camping and horseback riding. The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (G-6) adjoins Yellowstone Park on its north edge and offers more than 700 miles of trails and over 400 alpine lakes.

Winter Sports - Miles and miles of cross-country and snowmobile trails are easily accessible. The region is home to three of Montana's most popular ski areas, including the destination resorts of Big Sky (G-5), Bridger Bowl (F-5) near Bozeman and Red Lodge Mountain (G-7).

Museum of the Rockies (F-5). Best known for its world-class dinosaur collection, the Bozeman museum also has a planetarium and extensive Indian and historical exhibits.

LICENSE PLATE PREFIXES

1. Silver Bow	20. Valley	39. Fallon
2. Cascade	21. Toole	40. Sweet Grass
3. Yellowstone	22. Big Horn	41. McCone
4. Missoula	23. Musselshell	42. Carter
5. Lewis & Clark	24. Blaine	43. Broadwater
6. Gallatin	25. Madison	44. Wheatland
7. Flathead	26. Pondera	45. Prarie
8. Fergus	27. Richland	46. Granite
9. Powder River	28. Powell	47. Meagher
10. Carbon	29. Rosebud	48. Liberty
11. Phillips	30. Deer Lodge	49. Park
12. Hill	31. Teton	50. Garfield
13. Ravalli	32. Stillwater	51. Jefferson
14. Custer	33. Treasure	52. Wibaux
15. Lake	34. Sheridan	53. Golden Valley
16. Dawson	35. Sanders	54. Mineral
17. Roosevelt	36. Judith Basin	55. Petroleum
18. Beaverhead	37. Daniels	56. Lincoln
19. Choteau	38. Glacier	

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Fort Peck Lake (C-9, 10). This inland ocean stretches 135 miles through the Missouri River Breaks behind one of the world's largest dams. It is one of the nation's best walleye fisheries and home to more than 40 species of fish. Coming soon, a Fish Hatchery and the new Fort Peck Interpretive Center.

Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges (C-8, 9). Prairies, pines, breaks and badlands, encompassing a million acres of wildlands surrounding Fort Peck Lake. They support Montana's biggest prairie elk herd, plus mule deer, red fox and a great diversity of birds.

Fort Union Trading Post and National Historic Site (B-12). The Missouri River's pre-eminent fur trading post from the 1830s to the Civil War is located north of Fairview.

Medicine Lake and Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuges (B-12, 9). Famous for their great flocks of migrating waterfowl, including Canada geese, ducks, colonial nesting birds and upland game birds.

Pioneer Town (A-11). Walk the streets of an Old West Montana town to view 50 restored, furnished buildings of the homestead era. Located in Scobey.

Dinosaur Digs (B-8, 10, D-9). Experience the outstanding dinosaur and paleontology collections on display at Fort Peck and Malta. Visit the working labs and witness a live dinosaur dig in the Jordan area.

CUSTER COUNTRY

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (G-9). On June 25, 1876, the U.S. Cavalry was crushed by Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors. The dead included 263 soldiers and personnel of the 7th Cavalry including Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. The Monument has a visitor center, museum, battlefield tours, Custer National Cemetery, and 7th Cavalry Memorial.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (G-8). Stunning canyon scenery, hiking trails, boating, fishing and camping.

Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark (F-8). Captain William Clark carved his name on this sandstone butte in 1806.

Montana's Largest City (F-8). Billings is a regional hub and cultural center. Enjoy great shopping, restaurants, ZooMontana, the Western Heritage Center, Metra Park, and the Moss Mansion.

Makoshika State Park (D-12). A badlands with caprocks, pinnacles, hogback ridges and fluted hills.

Medicine Rocks State Park (F-12). A sculptured garden of soft sandstone, regarded as a place of "Big Medicine" by Indians.

Cow Capital of the West (E-11). Visit Miles City's Range Riders Museum and historic Fort Keogh.

CITY INDEX

Population figures for incorporated cities and towns are from the 2000 U.S. Census

Gas stations — Hospitals

Licensed ambulance service is available in cities or towns printed in magenta. If ambulance telephone number isn't available contact Highway Patrol or Sheriff's Office.

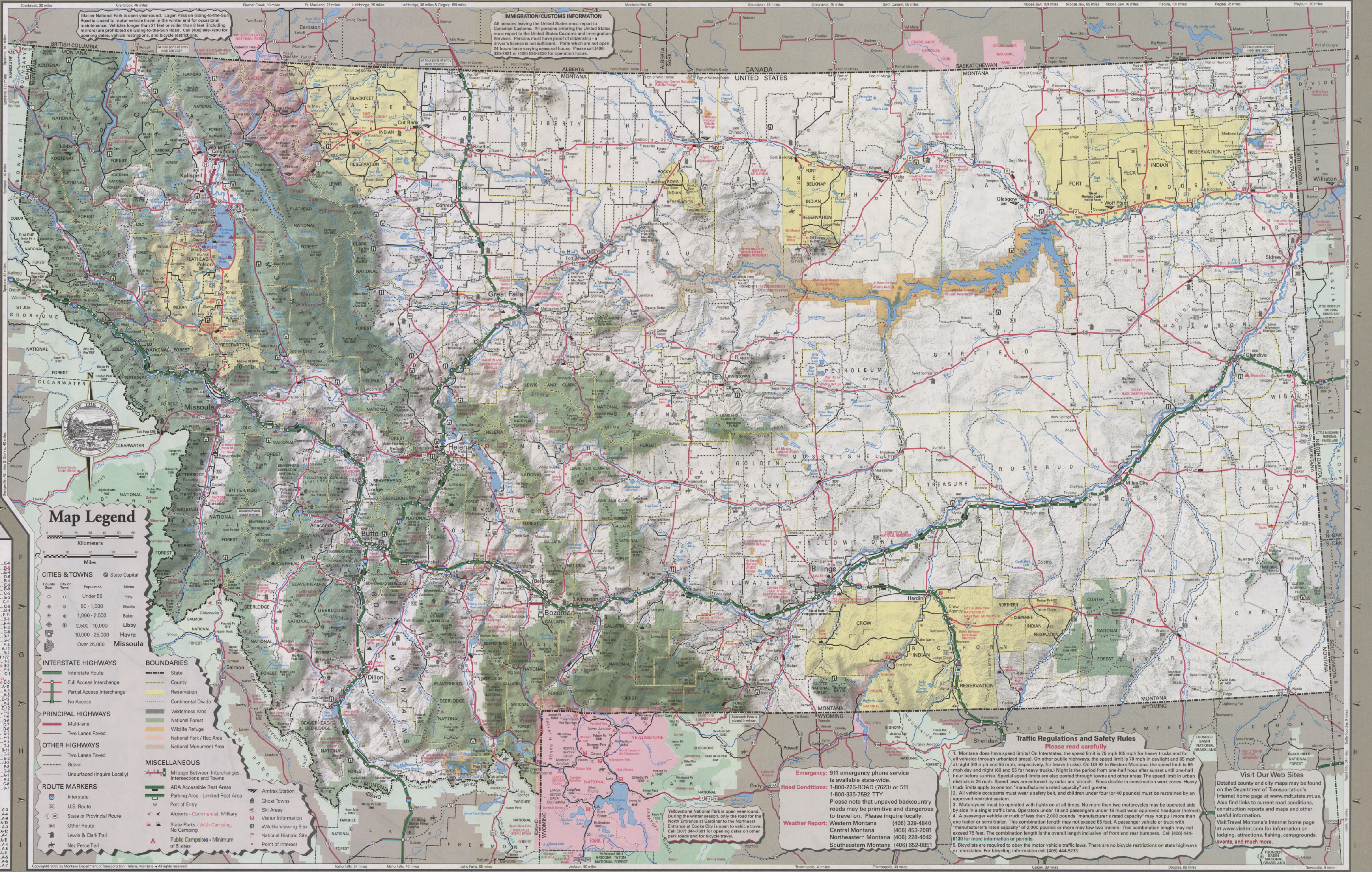
State Capital: Helena
Montana Population: 909,453*
*2002 U.S. Census Estimate

Land Area: 145,392 sq. miles
Water Area: 1,746 sq. miles
Total Area: 147,138 sq. miles

City	Grid
Absarokee	G-7
Acton	F-8
Agawam	C-4
Alberton, 374	D-2
Alder	G-4
Alhambra	E-4
Alpine	G-7
Alzada	G-12
Amsterdam	F-5
Anaconda, 9,417	F-3
Angela	E-10
Antelope	A-12
Apgar	B-2
Archer	A-12
Argenta	G-3
Arlee	D-2
Armington	D-5
Ashland	G-10
Ashuelot	C-5
Augusta	C-4
Austin	E-4
Avon	E-4
Babb	A-3
Bainville, 153	B-12
Baker, 1,695	E-12
Ballantine	F-8
Bannack	G-3
Basin	E-4
Bearcreek, 83	G-7
Beaverton	B-9
Beehive	G-7
Belfry	G-7
Belgrade, 5,728	F-5
Belknap	C-1
Belle Creek	G-12
Belt, 633	D-5
Benchland	D-6
Benteen	G-9
Biddle	G-11
Big Arm	C-2
Bigfork	B-2
Bighorn	F-9
Big Sandy, 703	B-6
Big Sky	G-5
Big Sky Mtn Village	G-5
Big Timber, 1,650	F-6
Billings, 89,847	F-8
Birney	G-10
Blackfoot	B-3
Bloomfield	C-12
Bonner	D-2
Boulder, 1,300	F-4
Box Elder	B-6
Boyd	G-7
Boyes	G-12
Bozeman, 27,509	F-5
Brady	C-4
Bridger, 745	G-8
Broadus, 451	G-11
Broadview, 150	F-8
Brockton, 245	B-11
Brockway	D-11
Brooks	D-7
Browning, 1,065	B-3
Brusett	C-9
Buffalo	E-7
Burnham	B-6
Busby	G-10
Butte, 33,892	F-4
Buxton	F-4
Bynum	C-4
Cameron	G-5
Canyon Creek	E-4
Canyon Ferry	E-5
Capitol	G-12
Cardwell	F-4
Carlyle	E-12
Carter	C-5
Cascade, 819	D-5
Castner Falls	D-5
Cat Creek	D-8
Centerville	D-5
Charlo	C-2
Checkerboard	E-6
Chester, 871	B-5
Chinook, 1,386	B-7
Choteau, 1,781	C-4
Christina	D-7
Churchill	F-5
Circle, 644	C-11
Clancy	E-4
Cleveland	B-7
Clinton	E-3
Clyde Park, 310	F-6
Coal Banks Landing	C-6
Coalridge	A-12
Coburg	B-8
Coffee Creek	D-6
Cohagen	D-10
Collins	C-4
Colstrip, 2,346	F-10
Columbia Falls, 3,645	B-2
Columbus, 1,748	G-7
Comertown	A-12
Comet	E-4
Condon	C-3
Conner	F-2
Conrad, 2,753	B-4
Cooke City	H-6
Coram	B-2
Corbin	E-4
Corvallis	E-2
Corwin Springs	G-6
Craig	D-4
Crane	C-12
Creston	B-2
Crow Agency	G-9
Culbertson, 716	B-12
Cushman	E-7
Custer	F-9
Cut Bank, 3,105	B-4
Dagmar	A-12
Daleview	A-11
Danvers	D-7
Darby, 710	F-2
Dayton	C-2
De Borgia	D-1
Dean	G-7
Decker	G-10
Deer Lodge, 3,421	E-4
Dell	H-3
Dempsey	E-3
Denton, 301	D-6
Devon	B-5
Dewey	F-3
Dillon, 3,752	G-4
Divide	F-3
Dixon	D-2
Dodson, 122	B-8
Dooley	A-12
Drummond, 318	E-3
Dunkirk	B-5
Dunmore	F-9
Dupuyer	B-4
Durham	B-3
Dutton, 389	C-5
East Glacier Park	B-3
East Helena, 1,642	E-4
Eddies Corner	D-7
Eddy	C-1
Eden	D-5
Edgar	G-8
Ekalaka, 410	F-12
Elliston	E-4
Elmo	C-2
Emigrant	G-6
Enid	C-12
Ennis, 840	G-4
Essex	B-3
Ethridge	B-4
Eureka, 1,017	A-1
Evaro	D-2
Fairfield, 659	C-4
Fairview, 709	C-12
Fallon	D-11
Farmington	C-4
Ferdig	A-5
Fergus	D-7
Ferndale	B-2
Fife	D-5
Fishtail	G-7
Flatwillow	E-8
Flaxville, 87	A-11
Florence	E-2
Floweree	C-5
Forest Green	E-6
Forestgrove	D-7
Forsyth, 1,944	E-10
Ft Belknap Agency	B-8
Ft Benton, 1,594	C-6
Ft. Harrison	E-4
Fortine	A-1
Fort Kipp	B-12
Fort Peck, 240	C-10
Fort Shaw	C-4
Fort Smith	G-9
Four Buttes	A-11
Frazer	B-10
Frenchtown	D-2
Fresno	B-6
Froid, 195	B-12
Fromberg, 486	G-7
Galata	B-5
Galen	E-3
Gallatin Gateway	G-5
Gardiner	H-6
Garneill	E-7
Garrison	E-3
Garryowen	G-9
Georgetown	E-3
Geraldine, 284	C-6
Geyser	D-6
Gildford	B-6
Gilman	C-4
Giltedge	D-7
Glasgow, 3,253	B-10
Glen	G-4
Glendive, 4,729	D-12
Glengarry	D-7
Glentana	A-10
Gold Creek	E-3
Grannis	F-6
Grant	G-3
Grantsdale	E-2
Grass Range, 149	D-8
Great Falls, 56,690	C-5
Greenough	D-3
Greycliff	F-7
Hall	E-3
Hamilton, 3,705	E-2
Hammond	G-12
Happy's Inn	B-1
Hardin, 3,384	F-9
Hardy	D-4
Harlem, 848	B-8
Harlowton, 1,062	E-7
Harrison	F-4
Hathaway	E-10
Haugan	C-1
Havre, 9,621	B-7
Hays	C-8
Heart Butte	B-3
Hedgesville	E-7
Helena, 25,780	E-4
Helmville	D-3
Henderson	C-1
Heron	B-1
Highwood	C-6
Hilger	D-7
Hingham, 157	B-6
Hinsdale	B-9
Hobson, 244	D-6
Hodges	D-12
Hogeland	A-8
Homestead	B-12
Hot Springs, 531	C-2
Hughesville	D-6
Hungry Horse	B-2
Huntley	F-8
Huson	D-2
Hysham, 330	E-9
Ingomar	E-9
Intake	D-12
Inverness	B-6
Ismay, 26	E-12
Jackson	G-3
Jardine	G-6
Jeffers	G-5
Jefferson City	E-4
Jefferson Island	F-4
Jimtown	F-10
Joliet, 575	G-7
Joplin	B-6
Jordan, 364	D-10
Judith Gap, 164	E-7
Kalispell, 14,223	B-2
Kershaw	C-6
Kevin, 178	A-4
Keystone	D-1
Kila	B-2
Kinsey	E-11
Kiowa	B-3
Klein	E-8
Kolin	D-7
Kremlin	B-6
La Hood	F-4
Lake McDonald	A-2
Lakeside	B-2
Lakeview	H-4
Lambert	C-12
Lame Deer	G-10
Landusky	C-8
Laredo	B-6
Larslan	B-10
Laurel, 6,255	F-8
Laurin	G-4
Lavina, 209	E-7
Ledger	B-5
Lennep	E-6
Lewistown, 5,813	D-7
Libby, 2,626	B-1
Lima, 242	H-4
Limestone	G-6
Lincoln	D-4
Lindsay	D-11
Livingston, 6,851	F-6
Lloyd	B-7
Lodge Grass, 510	G-9
Lodge Pole	C-8
Logan	F-5
Lohman	B-7
Lolo	E-2
Loma	C-6
Lonepine	C-2
Loring	A-8
Lothair	B-5
Lozeau	D-1
Lustre	B-10
Luther	G-7
McAllister	G-5
McCabe	B-12
McLeod	F-6
Macon	B-11
Madoc	A-11
Maiden	D-7
Malmstrom AFB	C-5
Malta, 2,120	B-8
Manchester	C-5
Manhattan, 1,396	F-5
Manicke	B-1
Marion	B-2
Martin City	B-2
Martinsdale	E-6
Marysville	E-4
Maudlow	F-5
Maxville	E-3
Medicine Lake, 269	B-12
Melrose	F-4
Melstone, 136	E-9
Melville	F-6
Mid Canon	D-4
Mildred	E-12
Miles City, 8,487	E-11
Millegan	D-5
Mill Iron	F-12
Milltown	D-2
Miner	G-5
Missoula, 57,053	D-2
Moccasin	D-6
Moiese	D-2
Molt	F-7
Monarch	D-5
Monida	H-4
Montague	C-6
Montana City	E-4
Moore, 186	D-7
Mosby	D-9
Musselshell	E-8
Myers	E-9
Nashua, 325	B-10
Navajo	A-11
Neihart, 91	D-6
Nevada City	G-4
Niarada	C-2
Norris	G-5
Noxon	B-1
Nyack	B-2
Nye	G-7
Oilmont	A-5
Olive	G-11
Ollie	E-12
Olney	B-2
Opheim, 111	A-10
Opportunity	F-3
Oswego	B-11
Otter	G-10
Outlook, 82	A-12
Ovando	D-3
Pablo	C-2
Paradise	C-1
Park City	G-7
Park Grove	B-10
Peerless	A-11
Pendroy	B-4
Perma	D-2
Philipsburg, 914	E-3
Pine Creek	G-6
Pinesdale, 742	E-2
Pinnacle	B-3
Pipestone	F-4
Plains, 1,126	C-1
Plentywood, 2,061	A-12
Plevna, 138	E-12
Polaris	G-3
Polebridge	A-2
Polson, 4,041	C-2
Pompeys Pillar	F-9
Pony	F-4
Poplar, 911	B-11
Portage	C-5
Porters Corner	E-3
Potomac	D-3
Powderville	F-11
Power	C-5
Pray	G-6
Princeton	E-3
Proctor	C-2
Pryor	G-8
Quartz	D-1
Radersburg	F-5
Ramsay	F-4
Rapelje	F-7
Ravalli	D-2
Raymond	A-12
Raynesford	D-6
Red Lodge, 2,177	G-7
Redstone	A-11
Reed Point	F-7
Reserve	A-12
Rexford, 151	A-1
Riceville	D-5
Richey, 189	C-11
Richland	A-10
Ridge	G-12
Rimini	E-4
Ringling	E-5
Rivulet	D-1
Roberts	G-7
Rock Springs	E-10
Rocker	F-4
Rockvale	G-8
Rocky Boy	B-7
Rollins	C-2
Ronan, 1,812	C-2
Roscoe	G-7
Rosebud	E-10
Ross Fork	D-7
Roundup, 1,931	E-8
Roy	D-7
Rudyard	B-6
Ryegate, 268	E-7
Saco, 224	B-9
Saint Ignatius, 788	D-2
Saint Marie	B-10
Saint Mary	A-3
Saint Phillip	D-12
Saint Regis	D-1
Saint Xavier	G-9
Saltese	C-1
Sand Coulee	D-5
Sand Springs	D-9
Sanders	E-9
Santa Rita	A-4
Sapphire Village	D-6
Sarpy	F-10
Savage	C-12
Savoy	B-8
Scluchetti Place	F-3
Scobey, 1,082	A-11
Sedan	F-5
Seeley Lake	D-3
Shawmut	E-7
Sheffield	E-10
Shelby, 3,216	B-5
Shepherd	F-8
Sheridan, 659	G-4
Shonkin	C-6
Sidney, 4,774	C-12
Silesia	G-8
Silver Gate	H-6
Silver Star	F-4
Simms	C-4
Sixteen	F-5
Snider	C-1
Somers	B-2
Sonnette	G-11
Southern Cross	E-3
Springdale	F-6
Sprole	B-11
Square Butte	C-6
Stanford, 454	D-6
Starr School	B-3
Stevensville, 1,553	E-2
Stockett	D-5
Stryker	A-2
Suffolk	D-7
Sula	F-2
Sumatra	E-9
Sunburst, 415	A-4
Sun River	C-5
Superior, 893	D-1
Swan Lake	C-2
Tampico	B-10
Tarkio	D-1
Teigen	D-8
Terry, 611	D-11
Thoeny	A-9
Thompson Falls, 1,321	C-1
Three Forks, 1,728	F-5
Thurlow	E-10
Toston	F-5
Townsend, 1,867	E-5
Tracy	D-5
Trego	A-1
Trident	F-5
Trout Creek	C-1
Troy, 957	B-1
Turah	D-2
Turner	A-8
Twin Bridges, 400	G-4
Two Dot	E-6
Ulm	D-5
Unionville	E-4
Utica	D-6
Valier, 498	B-4
Vananda	E-9
Vandalia	B-9
Vaughn	C-5
Victor	E-2
Vida	C-11
Virgelle	C-6
Virginia City, 130	G-4
Volborg	F-11
Wagner	B-8
Walkerville, 714	F-4
Warm Springs	F-3
Warren	G-8
Warrick	B-7
Washoe	G-7
Waterloo	F-4
Westby, 172	A-12
West Glacier	B-2
West Yellowstone, 1,177	H-5
Whitefish, 5,032	B-2
Whitehall, 1,044	F-4
White Pine	C-1
White Sulphur Springs, 984	E-5
Whitetail	A-11
Whitewater	A-9
Whitlash	A-5
Wibaux, 567	D-12
Wickes	E-4
Willard	E-12
Willow Creek	F-5
Wilsall	F-6
Windham	D-6
Winifred, 156	C-7
Winnett, 185	D-8
Winston	E-5
Wisdom	F-3
Wise River	F-3
Wolf Creek	D-4
Wolf Point, 2,663	B-11
Woods Bay	C-2
Woodside	E-2
Woodworth	D-3
Worden	F-8
Wyola	G-9
Yaak	A-1
York	E-4
Zortman	C-8
Zurich	B-7

PORTS OF ENTRY

Port	Grid
Port of Chief Mtn.	A-3
Port of Del Bonita	A-4
Port of Morgan	A-9
Port of Opheim	A-10
Port of Piegan	A-3
Port of Raymond	A-12
Port of Roosville	A-1
Port of Scobey	A-11
Port of Sweet Grass	A-4
Port of Turner	A-8
Port of Whitetail	A-11
Port of Whitlash	A-5
Port of Wild Horse	A-6
Port of Willow Creek	A-7



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LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL

Retrace the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through Montana. In just over 28 months—from May 1804 to September 1806—Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled more than 8,000 miles on foot, on horseback and by boat. More than a quarter of that distance was spent in Montana, where much of the land they explored remains unchanged. Follow them through Montana along portions of many state, U.S. and interstate highways, on the map below. Look for the Lewis & Clark Trail sign.

Among the sites are: (1) The scenic White Cliffs of the Missouri River, accessible by river travel only. (2) Fort Benton. (3) Great Falls, with the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center and Giant Springs Heritage State Park, where Clark discovered a huge "fountain or spring" during an 18-mile portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri. (4) The Gates of the Mountains, north of Helena on I-15, where the Missouri flows through a narrow passage flanked by what Lewis described as "the most remarkable clifts that we have yet seen." (5) Missouri Headwaters State Park near Three Forks, where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers join to form the Missouri. (6) Beaverhead Rock State Monument, an important landmark north of Dillon on MT 41. (7) Lemhi Pass, west of Hwy. 324 in southwestern Montana, where Lewis and Clark crossed the Continental Divide on their journey westward. (8) Travelers' Rest, near the junction of US 12 and 93 south of Missoula, where the expedition split parties on the return trip east. (9) Lolo Hot Springs, on US 12 southwest of Missoula, where the expedition camped. (10) Lolo Pass Visitor Center, on US 12 at the Montana-Idaho border, which has an interpretive site. (11) Pompeys Pillar, off I-94 east of Billings, where Clark carved his signature in a large sandstone rock along the Yellowstone River. Commercial boat tours retrace the river route of Lewis and Clark at the Gates of the Mountains (4), and in the scenic White Cliffs area of the Missouri River (1).

Do some exploring of your own by finding out more about the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition. Bookstores now have the condensed versions of their journals, as well as several excellent guides. Or, blaze a trail onto the web at www.lewisandclarkbicentennial.com or montanalewisandclark.org for more information and many related links.

Other sources include:

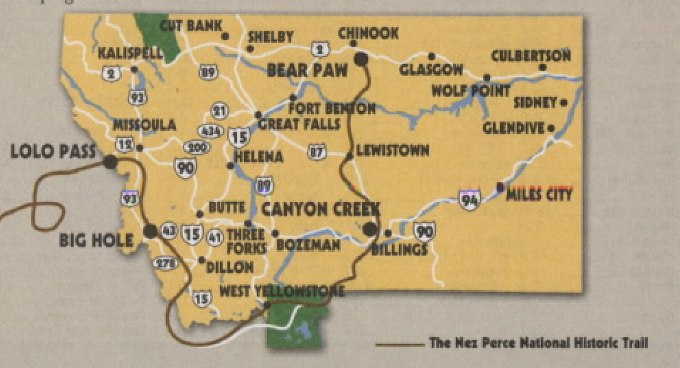
- Travel Montana, call 800-VISITMT (847-4868) or 406-841-2870 for a brochure on Montana's Lewis and Clark sites or visit www.lewisandclarkbicentennial.com
- Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, Great Falls, MT. 406-727-8733, www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic.htm

NEZ PERCE TRAIL

In the summer of 1877, five bands of Nez Perce Indians fled their homeland in Oregon and Idaho to escape war. For six months and 1,170 miles, 800 Nez Perce outmaneuvered the U.S. Army in nearly a dozen battles. Today, you can follow the Nez Perce or "Nee-me-poo" National Historic Trail through Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

You'll find many significant stops along the Nez Perce Trail in Montana. The Nez Perce entered Montana at **Lolo Pass** and easily bypassed a blockade at **"Fort Fizzle"** near Missoula. At **Big Hole National Battlefield** near Wisdom, Colonel Gibbon's forces launched a savage surprise attack on the sleeping camp, only to be turned back with heavy losses. At **Canyon Creek Battlefield** near Laurel, U.S. Army forces were again foiled in their attempt to capture the Nez Perce between the Yellowstone and Musselshell Rivers. The **Bear Paw Battlefield**, 16 miles south of Chinook, is the site of the Nez Perce surrender on October 5, 1877. Other sources of information are:

- USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807, www.fs.fed.us/npnht
- Big Hole National Battlefield, P.O. Box 327, Wisdom, MT 59761, www.nps.gov/biho



WELCOME TO A VERY SPECIAL PLACE

Montana's nickname is Big Sky Country. But we're more than big skies—we're a land of big adventure. Wildlife abounds on millions of acres of public lands. Crystal clear waters, inspiring mountains and plains of green fill our landscape. Unique cities offer art, history, culture and other interesting attractions. And everywhere, some 900,000 smiling faces are waiting to greet you. Welcome to Montana, and enjoy your stay.

Judy Martz

Governor Judy Martz

Governor Judy Martz and her husband, Harry Martz (Sandy Newston)

Montana's State Symbols

The official state seal, adopted in 1893, bears the motto "Oro y Plata," meaning gold and silver in Spanish.

Illustrations by Peter Grosshauser

There's a wealth of information about our state free for the asking. Call 800-VISIT MT (800-847-4868), Rm. 1HM or 406-841-2870 to request information about lodging, camping, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, golf or other activities. TDD 406-841-2702.

Visit us on the web at www.visitmt.com • Kids can play on www.montanakids.com

Visit Montana's Department of Transportation web site for information about scenic byways, road reports and weather, bicycle routes and more at www.mdt.state.mt.us

This map is produced by Travel Montana, Department of Commerce and the Montana Department of Transportation. Alternative accessible formats of portions of this document will be provided to disabled individuals upon request.

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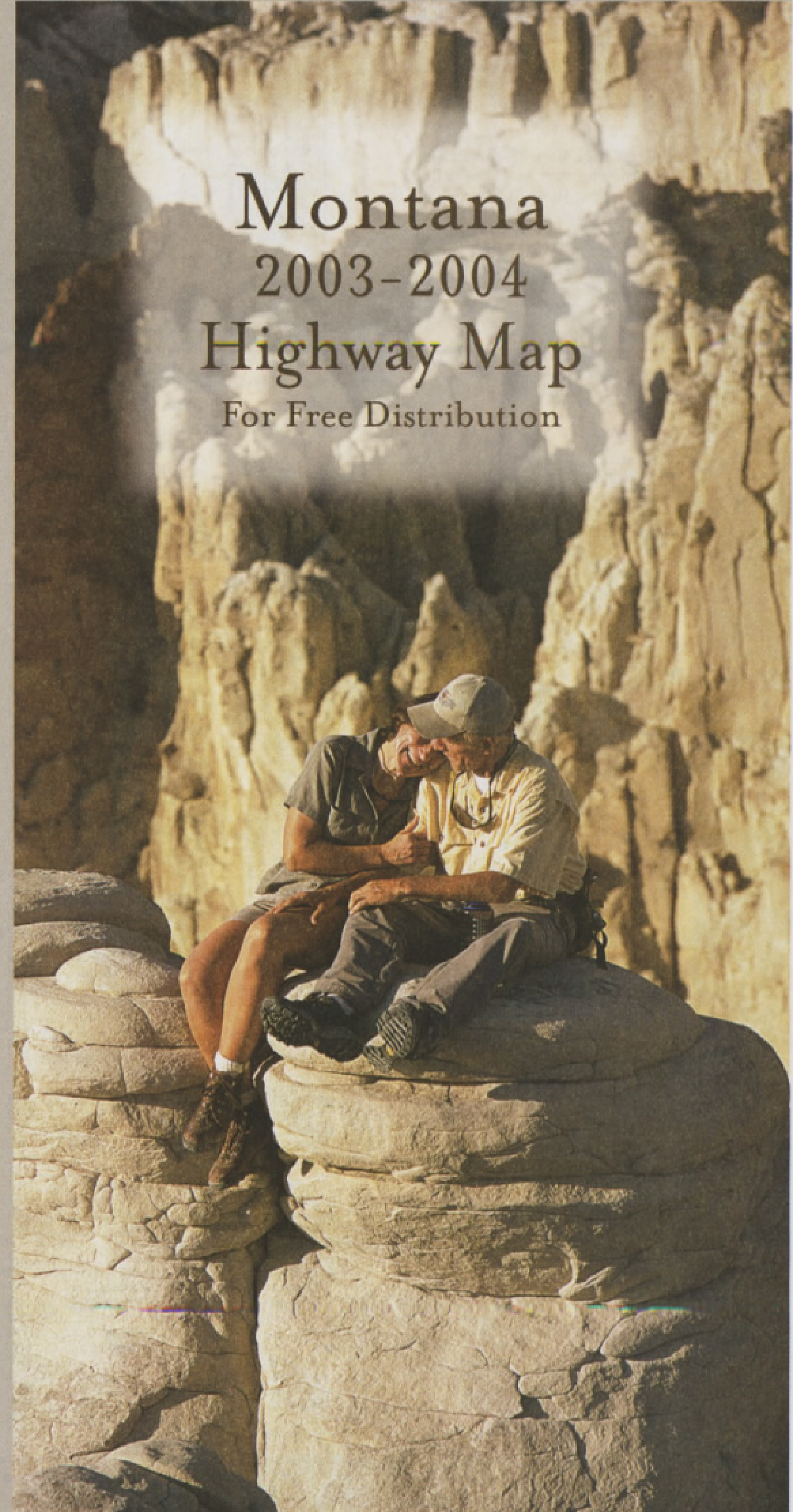
Cover photo: White Cliffs along the Wild and Scenic Missouri River by Tony Demin